

REMARKS

Amendments to and Status of Claims

Claims 6 and 8 have been amended. Claim 7 has been canceled. Claims 1-6 and 8-46 are currently pending in the case.

Indication of Allowance of Claims 1-5 and 23-46

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the indication in the Office Action that claims 1-5 and 23-46 are allowable.

Indication of Allowability of Claims 7-8, 11-17 and 20-22

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the indication in the Office Action that claims 7-8, 11-17 and 20-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations from claim 7, and claim 7 has been canceled. Applicant respectfully asserts, therefore, that claim 6 and its dependent claims 8-22 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 6, 9-10 and 18-19

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 9-10 and 18-19 over US 6,065,082 (Blair). Although Applicant does not agree with this rejection, Applicant has amended independent claim 6, which was rejected, to include the limitations of claim 7, which was deemed allowable. Claims 9-10 and 18-19 depend from amended claim 6. Applicant respectfully asserts, therefore, that claim 6 and its dependent claims 8-22 are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully asserts that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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